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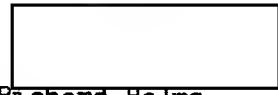
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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: "Strength of the International Communist Movement" Report Prepared by the Special Subcommittee on Security Affairs, dated 15 October 1953, Printed for the use of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

1. At the Deputies' Meeting on 6 November 1953 you called attention to the subject Report by Senator Wiley and directed that appropriate officers of the Agency study this Report.

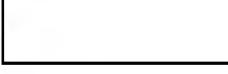
2. In this connection there is forwarded herewith for your information an evaluation of this Report prepared by the Foreign Intelligence Staff. The Report together with the FI evaluation will be circulated to all DD/P elements concerned.


Richard Helms
Chief of Operations, DD/P

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Attachment

Blind memo of 16 November 1953,
DD/P - 7470-a.

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AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 27 APR 1984 REVIEWER 

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16 November 1953

1. The publication "Strength of the International Communist Movement" by the Special Subcommittee on Security Affairs is a compilation of two documents prepared by the Office of Intelligence Research, State Department. Pages 12 to 47 of the publication contain an edited version of the OIR Report #4489R5, "The World Strength of the Communist Party Organizations," February 1953. Pages 48 to 60, entitled Regional Summary, were prepared for the Subcommittee by the OIR Committee on World Communism, May 1953.

2. The two OIR documents which form the substance of the report of the Subcommittee are valid statements on the numerical and political strength of the Communist Movement in the Free World. The basic Communist objectives and tactics are presented in summary fashion.

3. The introduction to the publication points out that the "study . . . does not purport to constitute anything but a limited review of this vast field." The introduction further emphasizes and counter-balances the limitations of the report by calling attention to the fallacies of the statistical approach and by referring properly to the true factors of Communist strength and growth: a) the ability to survive all sorts of adversity, and b) the Communist hold on the labor movement, particularly in industrialized societies. The introduction further contains the valid reminder that Communism, although vulnerable, will not "automatically choke" on its own contradictions, and that "only the most relentless exposure of those contradictions can undermine the Communist Movement."

4. The report does not purport to treat with the illegal and conspiratorial capabilities of the International Communist Movement. However, it throws the spotlight on this crucial problem in stating correctly: "Everywhere the illegal operation represents for the Kremlin the highest priority. The effectiveness of the underground is the ultimate success in that country."

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5. The report "Strength of the International Communist Movement" is a useful survey of the political strength of the Communist Movement in the Free World.

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The Honorable Alexander Wiley
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I recently finished reading the report on the "Strength of the International Communist Movement", which was prepared by the Special Subcommittee on Security Affairs, of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. It has also been read with great interest by several senior officials of this Agency, who consider it a most useful survey of the political strength of the Communist movement in the free world.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your associates on the issuance of this report.

In addition, I wish to express to you my best personal wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles

Director

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